news item, have reported that there is no involvement of any RBI officials in the fruad.

Increase in Prices of Polyester Yarn

1040. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of texturising and weaving units affected due to steep hike in the prices of polyester yarn, the total number of workers unemployed and the number of factories closed;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite reduction in excise and import duties, the prices of polyester yarn skyrocketed, due to increase in the cost of inputs;

(c) whether Government have worked out the total effect of excise/import duty reduction on raw materials and finished products; and

(d) the estimated rise in the cost of production due to escalation in the prices of raw materials like DMT, PTA, MEG, Paraxylene?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) There has been representation that despite the various concessions given by the Government, there has been increase in the prices of Polyester Yarn on account of increase in raw-material prices. There are about 2000 texturising units in the country and it has been represented that increase in prices has affected capacity utilisation in the texturing sector.

Prices of synthetic fibres/yarns including Polyester Yarn are not dependent only on raw-material prices but also on other factors such as cost structure of indigenous/imported raw-materials, conversion cost, duty structure, demand and supply, etc. However, in the context of increase in prices of these items, Government have asked the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices to undertake a study of the present structure of the industry which would cover factors relating to cost and prices.

Import of Power Equipment

1041. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some power equipments have been imported during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of countries of import and foreign exchanges spent thereon;

(c) whether there is proposal to produce these equipments in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHAMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) A wide range of machinery fall under the category of power equipments which is used in Thermal, Hydel, Gas and Nuclear Power Plants. Power Equipments also cover transmission and distribution equipment and other accessories related to power sector. Power equipments are imported by SEBs, industries using captive generation plants as well as the public & private utilities in power sector. The import of power equipments is also covered under bilateral and multilateral aid from various agencies as well as other countries under various funding arrangements. The details of power equipment imported by NHPC, NTPC, POWERGRID and NEEPCO are given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix 174, Annexture No. 31)

(c) to (c) Power equipments particularly in the field of generation, transmission & distribution are manufactured domestically by both public sector undertakings as well as private sector companies. If information pertaining to specific equipments or project is indicated, it would be possible

for this Ministry to give the details of the local manufacturing capabilities within the country. However, import of power equipment is sometimes necessitated in respect of projects receiving multilateral and bilateral aid.

बैंकों को बंद किया जाना और उनका विलय किया जाना

1042. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान विभिन्न राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों की बहुत सी शाखाओं को बंद कर दिया गया अथवा अन्य शाखाओं के साथ मिला दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त अवधि के दौरान बंद की गई अथवा अन्य शाखाओं के साथ मिला दी गई शाखाओं की बैंक-वार तथा वर्ष-वार संख्या क्या है;

(ग) क्या इन शाखाओं के बंद होने के कारण बड़ी संख्या में कर्मचारी फालतू (अतिरिक्त) हो गए हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उक्त अवधि के दौरान फालतू (अतिरिक्त) होने वाले कर्मचारियों की वर्ष-वार तथा बैंक-वार संख्या क्या है; और

(ङ) क्या इन कर्मचारियों को अन्यत्र रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कोई योजना तैयार की गई है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री मनमोन सिंह): सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा उपलब्ध सूचना सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Taking over of MNCs through IFCI

1043. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to take some large multi-national companies through Industrial Finance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) which companies have been targetted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Authorised Dealers to provide Foreign Exchange

1044. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank has permitted the authorised dealers to provide foreign exchange facilities to their customers beyond the permitted limits for business travel, medical treatment, medical checkup and training;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and foreign exchange facilites permitted by RBI;

(c) upto what amount the authorised dealers are now not required to obtain the prior approval of the Reserve Bank; and

(d) the details of delegated powers to authorised dealers to release foreign exchange for various purposes at the scales prescribed by the RBI and from which date these have been made effective?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) RBI has permitted Authorised Dealers to allow foreign exchange facilities for;

(i) Business travel abroad including entertainment allowance;